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DEAD POOL®

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SHROUDED IN STOLEN IDENTITIES AND CLANDESTINE SECRETS, THE MERC-WITH-A-MOUTH IS A MAN OF MYSTERY. HERO? VILLAIN? SOCIOPATH? DEADPOOL MAKES HIS OWN RULES AND PLAYS BY NOBODY'S GAME. HE IS AN AGENT OF CHAOS CONFINED TO A WORLD OF CONSTRICTING ORDER!

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

DEADPOOL

GREENWOOD LAKE, N.J.

NUTHIN' LIKE A LITTLE *FORCED R&R*, EH, BOYS?

TOO BAD *UNCLE P.* COULDN'T MAKE IT. HE'S STILL FREAKED 'BOUT THIS WHOLE *MA GNUCCI* THING. HE'S GOTTA TAKE IT EASY... ENJOY LIFE. KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN', VIN?

YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN', VIN, BUT YOU CAN'T *BLAME* DA GUY. HALF HIS BOYS WORKED FOR MA, AND NOW DEY'RE *ALL DEAD*.

I MEAN, HIS FREAKIN' SUMMERHOUSE IS HOOKED UP LIKE *FORT KNOX*, YA KNOW?

HE'S WAITING TILL DAT MOOK *THE PUNISHER* KICKS DA BUCKET.

ISABELLA

WHAT IS HE GONNA *STOP LIVIN'* 'CAUSE OF THAT *PIECE A' TRASH*? WHAT KIND OF LIFE IS *THAT*?

FROM WHAT I HEAR, THAT *PETER GNUCCI* KID--THE ONE THAT'S GONNA INHERIT MA GNUCCI'S *MONEY*--CAN'T GET A *DIME* OF IT TILL THE PUNISHER'S *KAPUT*.

I HAD BABY BOBBIE HOOK 'IM UP WITH SOMEONE WHO COULD GET THE *JOB DONE*. IT'LL COST THE KID, BUT HE'S GONNA BE *ROLLIN' IN IT* WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE.

WELL, I HOPE THAT HAPPENS *SOON*, I'M *GOING NUTS* WIT' ALL THIS VACATIONIN'.

I'M USED TO DEALIN' WIT' MY PROBLEMS *HEAD ON*, YA KNOW?

YEAH, BUT IT'S *BETTER* DIS WAY, VIN. PUNISHER CAN'T KILL WHAT HE *CAN'T FIND*, NO?

HE'LL GO DOWN, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, *BELIEVE ME*. GUYS LIKE DAT ALWAYS *SLIP UP* EVENTUALLY...

AH, *LIGHTEN UP*, BOYS. AND REMEMBER... WITHOUT THE PUNISHER, WE'D STILL BE WORKING UNDER MA GNUCCI AND DIGGER.

WAY I SEE IT, WE *OWE THE GUY*... AND AS LONG AS WE STEER CLEAR A' HIM, WE *GOT IT MADE*...

... UNLIKE *THESE POOR FISH*.

THEY'LL NEVER STAND A CHANCE AGAINST MY "*SECRET BAIT*", A PIECE OF KNAPP STREET FRIED CALAMARI.

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WHAT'RE YOU GONNA CATCH WIT' THAT? "ITALIAN" FISH?
HA! HA! HA! HA!
YOU MORONS LAUGH.
YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHAT YOU CATCH WITH THIS STUFF...

YEAH, MAYBE YOU'LL GET LUCKY AND CATCH A BREADED FISH!
HEY, I WAS T'INKING...WHAT IF WE MADE THIS PUNISHER GUY A DEAL? FOUND OUT HIS PRICE AND BOUGHT HIM OUT?
NOBODY REALLY KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS.

I DO.
SEEMS ALL HE WANTS IS EVERYBODY DEAD.
INCLUDING US.

YEAH, WELL DAT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN.
WHOA!

I GOT MYSELF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER! GIMME A HAND, YOU USELESS MONKEYS!
I'LL GET THE NET! KEEP PULLIN'! LET OUT A LITTLE LINE!

THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE BIG ONE!
COME TO PAPA!

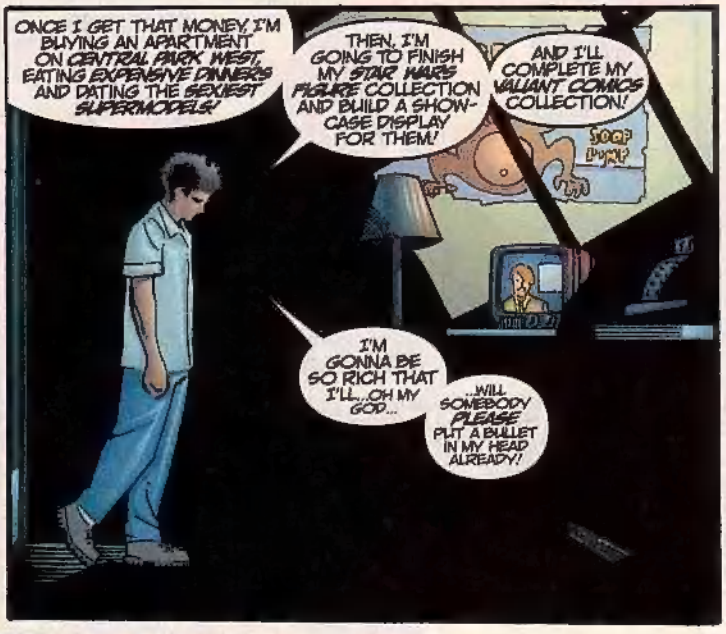
KA-BLAMM BLAMM BLAMM
End of the Road
JIMMY PALMIOTTI & BUDDY SCALERA
WRITERS
GEORGES JEANTY
PENCILER
JON HOLDREDGE
INKER
TOM CHU
COLORS
DAVE SHARPE
LETTERS
MIKE WRIGHT
ASSISTANT
MIKE MARTS
EDITOR
JOE QUESADA
CHIEF
BILL JEMAS
PRESIDENT
STEVE DILLON
COVER

BLAMM
BLAMM
BLAMM
LIKE SHOOTING PIGS IN A BARREL.
HATE TO POLLUTE THE LAKE LIKE THAT.
AS USUAL, MY INFORMATION WAS CORRECT. ALL THAT'S MISSING IS UNCLE P. ONCE I FIND HIM, I FINISH OFF THE LAST OF DIGGER'S CREW.
THERE ARE A THOUSAND THINGS I'D RATHER BE DOING ON SUCH A NICE DAY LIKE TODAY.
TODAY...
...IT WAS JUST LIKE TODAY...
CAN'T BELIEVE I HAD TO GO ALL THE WAY TO JERSEY FOR THIS JOB.

GOTTA STAY FOCUSED.
SCUM LIKE THAT ARE THE REASON I AM WHO I AM.
BUT THAT WAS A DIFFERENT LIFETIME...
... AND I WAS A DIFFERENT MAN.
NOW I'M THE PUNISHER.
THAT'S IT.
FREEPORT, LONG ISLAND.
YOU'RE RIGHT, PETER! IT SOUNDS LIKE BRAND NEW!
I'LL HAFTA TELL YOUR BOSS WHAT A GREAT JOB YOU'RE DOING!
COME ON, GINA, YOU KNOW I'M THE BOSS. HOW MANY TIMES DO I--
OH, YEAH, I FORGOT! WELL, SINCE YOU'RE THE BIG MAN NOW, HOW ABOUT A BREAK ON THE BILL, SEXY? I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE...
YOU SAID THAT LAST TIME, GINA. BUT THE PHONE NUMBER YOU GAVE ME WAS FOR AN EROTIC TOY COMPANY!
HA! SILLY ME!
GNUCCI'S GARAGE
FREEPORT, LONG ISLAND
THE BILL IS SIX HUNDRED. THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO... REALLY...
HERE'S TWO HUNDRED. AND GIVE ME A CALL THIS WEEKEND! WE'LL GET TOGETHER!
YEAH, BUT I DON'T HAVE YOUR--
TAKE THE MONEY, STUD!

WHOOPS! GOTTA RUN!
AND DON'T FORGET TO CALL ME, FRANKIE!
SCREECH
IT'S PETER... WE WENT TO GRAMMAR SCHOOL TOGETHER... IT'S ALWAYS BEEN PETER.

THINGS ARE GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT AROUND HERE ONCE I COLLECT ON MY AUNT'S INHERITANCE.
FIRST THING I DO IS SELL THIS GODFORSAKEN GARAGE AND BUY MYSELF A BOAT LIKE UNCLE VINNIE.
HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO LIVE... ME, I'M NOTHING BUT A LOSER WITH AN INHERITED SERVICE STATION. WHAT A FREAKING JOKE I MUST BE TO EVERYBODY.

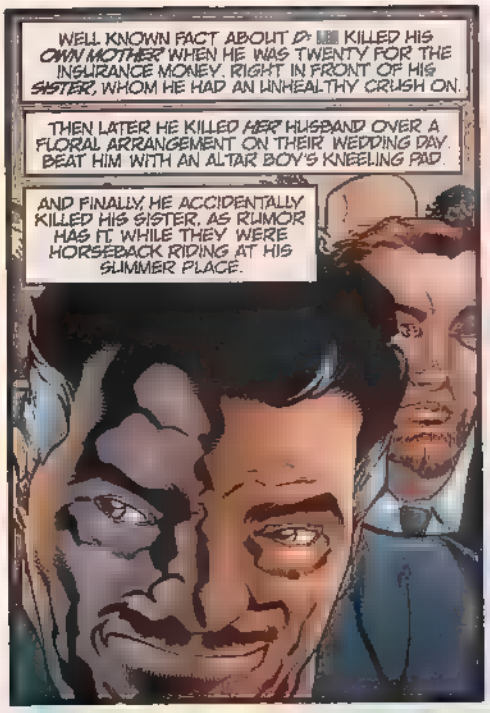

ONCE I GET THAT MONEY, I'M BUYING AN APARTMENT ON CENTRAL PARK WEST, EATING EXPENSIVE DINNERS AND DATING THE SEXIEST SUPERMODELS!
THEN, I'M GOING TO FINISH MY STAR WARS FIGURE COLLECTION AND BUILD A SHOW-CASE DISPLAY FOR THEM!
AND I'LL COMPLETE MY VALIANT COMICS COLLECTION!
SOAP OPERA?
I'M GONNA BE SO RICH THAT I'LL...OH MY GOD...
...WILL SOMEBODY PLEASE PUT A BULLET IN MY HEAD ALREADY!

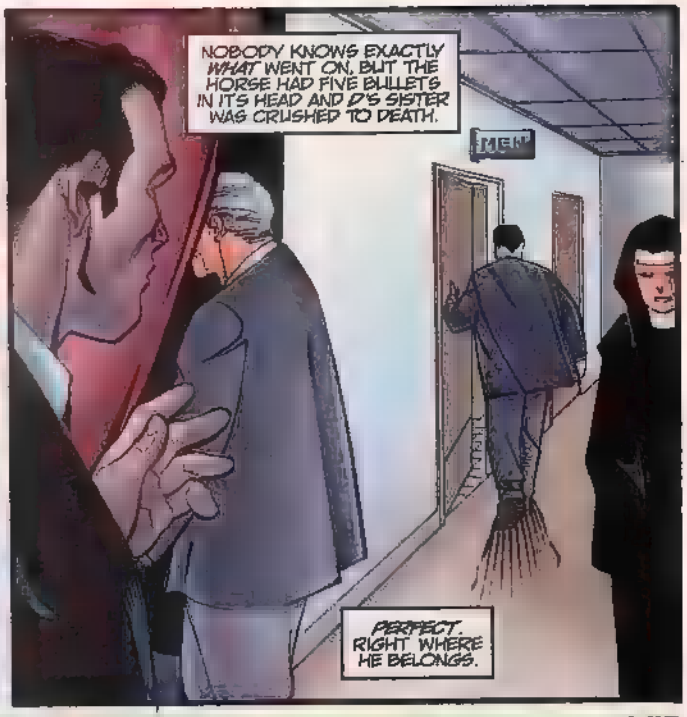
OKAY, BANG, YOU'RE DEAD.
AHHHHHHHH!!!
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM? YOU NEARLY SCARED ME TO DEATH!
BELIEVE ME, AFTER WHAT I JUST HEARD I'D BE DOING YOU A FAVOR.
WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S IT! I'M FIRING MY PUBLIC RELATIONS GUY!
THE NAME'S DEADPOOL. THE MERCENARY? MIGHTA HEARD OF ME? NOT WELL, YOUR UNCLE VINNIE CALLED ME ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM...
...THE ONE NAMED PUNISHER THAT NEEDS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF PERMANENTLY?
MY PRICE IS THREE MILLION LARGE.
NO WAY!!!

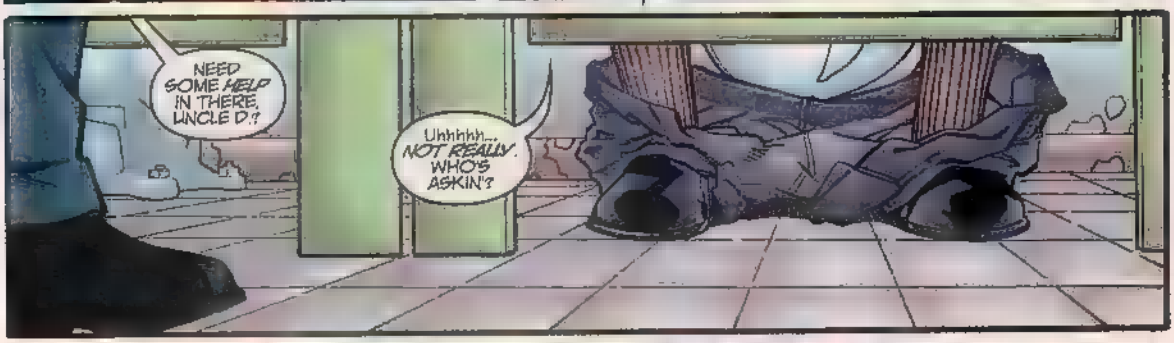
YES WAY. THAT'S MY "THIS GUY COULDN'T BE MORE PATHETIC" RATE.
I'M NOT PLAYING AROUND, PETER.
W-WAIT? THREE MILLION IS ALL I'M GETTING FROM THE INHERITANCE!
DO I LOOK STUPID TO YOU? YOUR AUNT HAD REAL ESTATE IN MANHATTAN WITH CARPETING THAT COSTS MORE THAN THREE MILLION! YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY LEFT OVER.
LISTEN, SON, WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME TO DO IS NO EASY GIG. BELIEVE ME, JUST FINDING THE PUNISHER WILL BE A MAJOR PROBLEM.
WHAT I'LL NEED FROM YOU TODAY IS THE LEASE FOR THIS GARAGE, AS COLLATERAL.
I DON'T USUALLY TAKE GIGS WITHOUT MONEY UP FRONT, BUT YOUR SITUATION IS MAKING HEADLINES AS WE SPEAK... SO I KNOW IT'S TRUE.
...THE INFAMOUS THREE VINNIES, NEW YORK MOBSTERS CONNECTED WITH THE GAMUCCI CRIME FAMILY, WERE FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN GREENWOOD LAKE, NEW JERSEY THIS MORNING...
...IRONICALLY, SOURCES SAY THE VINNIES WERE HIDING OUT ON A LAKE OWNED BY FORMER MOB BOSS MA GAMUCCI, WHO WAS RECENTLY MURDERED BY THE VIGILANTE KNOWN AS THE PUNISHER.
SOURCES ESTIMATE MA GAMUCCI'S ESTATE TO BE VALUED AT WELL OVER TEN MILLION. FUNERALS FOR THE THREE VINNIES WILL BE HELD IN BENSONHURST TONIGHT UNDER HEAVY SECURITY... STILL AT LARGE IS GAMUCCI FAMILY MEMBER "UNCLE D"... IN OTHER NEWS...
SEE, KID, WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THREE MILLION IS CHICKEN FEED. I'M DOING THIS HIT, YOU'RE GETTING THAT CHECK, AND YOU'RE GIVING IT TO ME. DEAL?
UH, YEAH, SURE. WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
WE ALL HAVE CHOICES, PETER. ME, I GOT A FUNERAL TO GO TO TONIGHT.
SEE YOU SOON, AND MAKE SURE YOU CLEAN UP MY GARAGE.
YEAH... WHATEVER.

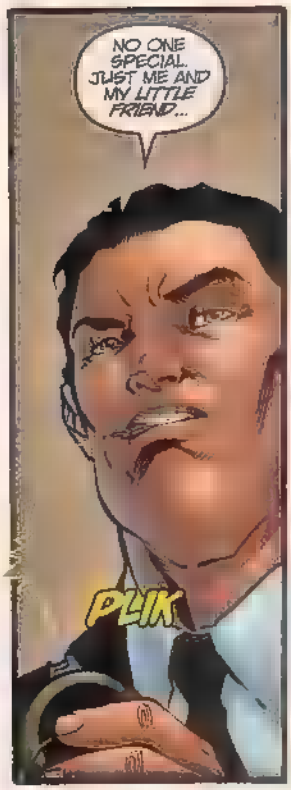
IT'S NOT THE COPS THAT ARE A PROBLEM.
FUNE
IT'S THE HIRED HELP. THEY'RE ALL KILLERS.
THEY HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH QUICKLY.
QUIETLY.
HAVE TO BE CREATIVE.
USE MY SURROUNDINGS.
BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY...
...HAVE FUN.
GOOD. NOBODY HEARD A THING.
TIME TO FINISH THE JOB.

CAN'T BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD CRY FOR THIS TRASH.
DAD DO WE GET TO KEEP THE BOAT?
SSHHHH!
OH, MY POOR VANNIE! OH GOD! WHY DOES GOD TAKE ALL THE GOOD ONES? WHY? :SNIFF:
GOD HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS, LADY.
THERE HE IS. GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT THIS OUT.
WE SAVED A CHAIR IN FRONT FOR YOU, UNCLE D...
YEAH, TONY. THANKS...
THAT'S IT. COME TO PAPA.
'SCUZE ME, BUT NATURE CALLS.

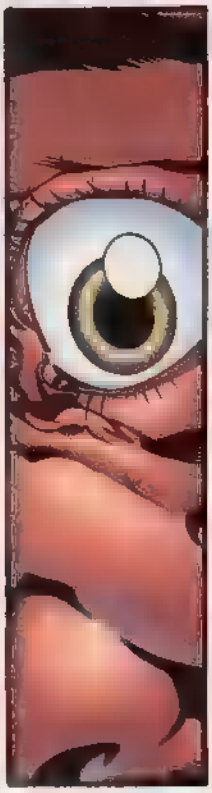

WELL KNOWN FACT ABOUT D- KILLED HIS OWN MOTHER WHEN HE WAS TWENTY FOR THE INSURANCE MONEY. RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS SISTER, WHOM HE HAD AN UNHEALTHY CRUSH ON.
THEN LATER HE KILLED HER HUSBAND OVER A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT ON THEIR WEDDING DAY. BEAT HIM WITH AN ALTAR BOY'S KNEELING PAD.
AND FINALLY, HE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIS SISTER, AS RUMOR HAS IT, WHILE THEY WERE HORSEBACK RIDING AT HIS SUMMER PLACE.


NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WENT ON, BUT THE HORSE HAD FIVE BULLETS IN ITS HEAD AND D'S SISTER WAS CRUSHED TO DEATH.
MEN
PERFECT. RIGHT WHERE HE BELONGS.


NEED SOME HELP IN THERE, UNCLE D.?
Uhhhhh... NOT REALLY. WHO'S ASKIN'?


NO ONE SPECIAL. JUST ME AND MY LITTLE FRIEND...
PLIK

CLINK
CLINK
LITTLE FRIEND...?



FOOM

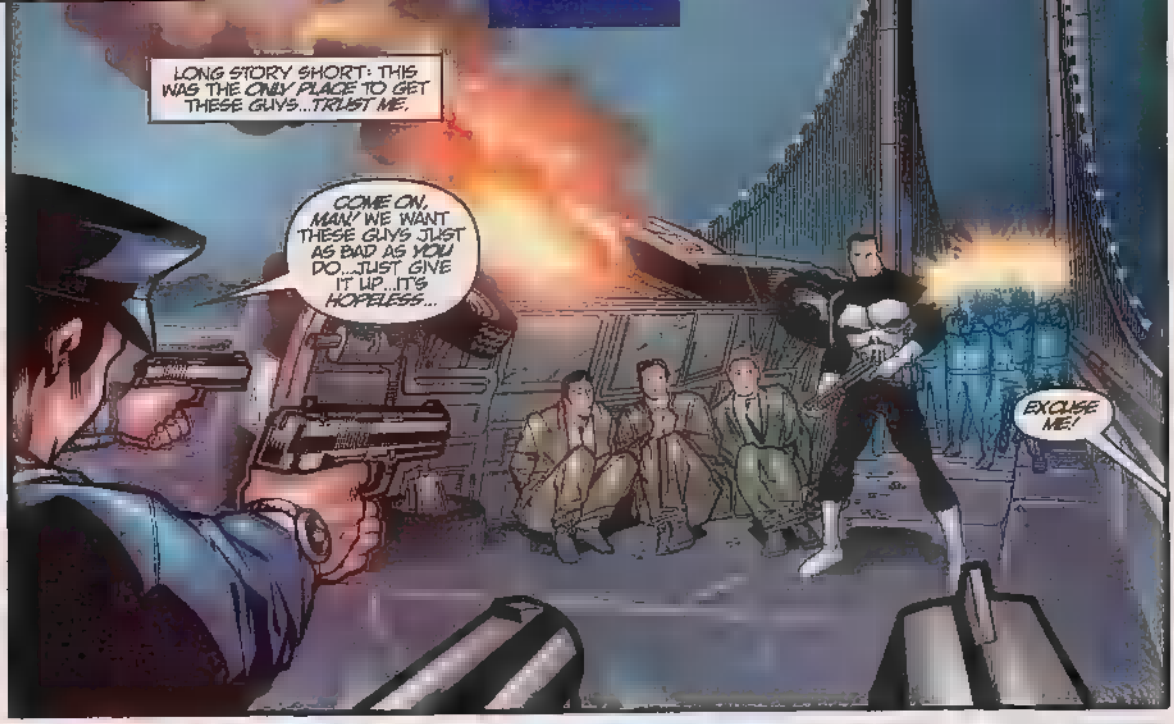
SWEET.
EXIT
THE MEN'S ROOM!
AHHH!
MY GOD!
COMPLETELY IN HALF!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE.
NOTHING PERSONAL, PUNISHER, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO [redacted] YOUR [redacted]LANTE CAREER RIGHT NOW.
I MEAN, I FEEL BAD ABOUT THIS, BUT IT'S FOR A GOOD CAUSE. LIKE THREE MILLION GOOD CAUSES.
KEEP TALKING.
THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME, PUNNY. WE'RE PRACTICALLY ON THE SAME TEAM. I'D EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO SAY THAT WE'D EVENTUALLY SHARE THE SAME ROOM AT THE OLD HEROES' HOME ONE DAY.
IF YOU WERE STICKING AROUND LONGER, WHICH YOU AIN'T...
...SO BEING THE NICE AN' FRIENDLY MERC-WITH-A-MOUTH THAT I AM, YOU HAVE ANY LAST WORDS THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? SOMEONE YOU'D LIKE TO CALL? SPECIAL MARKINGS ON YOUR GRAVE? DON'T BE SHY WITH ME, PUNNY. LET ME HAVE IT.

I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT.
KA-BLAMM
KA-BLAMM
DEADPOOL.
NOW JUST DEAD.
WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT?

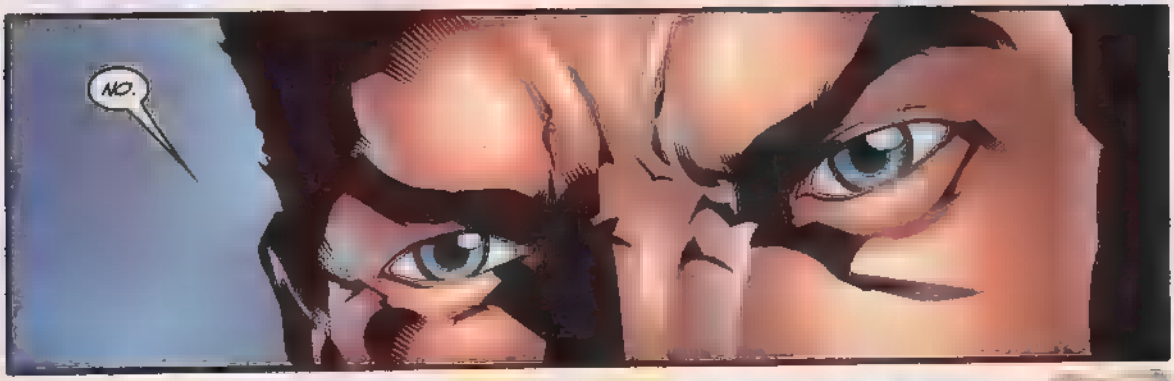
UGGGH! MY CHEST IS ON FIRE! THANK GOD FOR MY HEALING FACTOR!
UUGGGHHH. WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?
I GOT ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT WORRYIN' ABOUT LEAD POISONING.
BETTER GO HOME AND PLAY DOCTOR... DON'T WANT THE WOUNDS TO CLOSE UP WITH THE AMMO INSIDE ME.
NOTE TO SELF: FOR FUTURE BATTLES, STEAL IRON MAN'S ARMOR.
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
REDHOOK, BROOKLYN. DEADPOOL'S SECRET WAREHOUSE.
...POLICE CONFIRMED THAT MOB BOSS DOMINIK D'NOTO — A.K.A. "UNCLE D." — WAS KILLED IN A SMALL EXPLOSION AT THE SEAVIEW FUNERAL HOME IN BENSONHURST LAST NIGHT.
OVER HALF A DOZEN ADDITIONAL BODIES WERE FOUND, ALL MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT CRIME FAMILIES FROM AROUND THE TRI-STATE AREA. DETECTIVE ARNOLD HUFF WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY RUMORS THAT THE VIGILANTE KNOW AS "THE PUNISHER" WAS INVOLVED.
OTHER SOURCES SAID THAT THE VIGILANTE DEADPOOL WAS SEEN LIMPING AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME MOMENTS LATER, CRITICALLY INJURED...
RING! RING! RING! RING!
:HUFF: :HUFF: OKAY!
THAT'S GOTTA BE COPYCAT.
TWAK TWAK TWAK TWAK
WADE! I JUST SAW THE NEWS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? IS IT TRUE? ARE YOU HURT?
I'M FINE, VANESSA. JUST A COUPLE OF BRUISES. NOTHING TO FREAK OUT ABOUT. REALLY.

WELL, WHY DON'T I PUT SOMETHING ON AND HEAD OVER...
...YOU KNOW, TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE REALLY OKAY? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK ANOTHER TIME WOULD BE BETTER, YOU KNOW I HAVE TO GET THIS JOB DONE.
I REALLY CAN'T FOCUS ON YOU RIGHT NOW... LET ME GET THIS [redacted] HIT OUT OF THE WAY AND I'M ALL YOURS...
SHHHHHHH... PUNISHER SPOTTED... SSKRK... ARE YOU SURE? ...SSKRK... HOW MANY GUYS WITH WHITE SKULLS PAINTED ON THEIR CHEST DO YOU KNOW? ... SHHHHHHHH
OKAY, BUT YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO TALK, WORK THINGS OUT.
WE WILL, SOON, VANESSA. TRUST ME.
WE'RE LIVE AT THE VERRAZANO BRIDGE WHERE THE PUNISHER HAS SEVERAL HOSTAGES AT GUNPOINT...
'NESSA, HOLD THAT THOUGHT-- I GOTTA RUN!
WADE!
I KNOW YOU WON'T LISTEN TO [redacted] BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL...
...I LOVE YOU.

GOTTA HAND IT TO THE OLD PUN-MAN. HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE A SCENE! LOOKS LIKE EVERY COP IN THE TRI-STATE AREA IS DOING OVERTIME TONIGHT!
IF I WRAP THIS UP EARLY ENOUGH, I'LL SEE IF VANESSA CAN MORPH INTO TYPHOID MARY'S LIPS.
SHOOT. I SHOULD REALLY BE DISCOURAGING HER FROM USING HER SHAPE-SHIFTING POWERS. I THINK THAT'S WHAT'S [redacted] UP HER MIND LATELY.
I SWEAR, ONCE WE GET THROUGH BLACK WIDOW, SCARLET WITCH, PSYLOCKE AND THE SHE-HULK, I'M DONE USING HER TO FULFILL MY FANTASIES!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO GET THROUGH ALL THIS.
THINK I'LL DO THE SMART THING FOR ONCE AND WAIT BY THE WATER'S EDGE TO LET IT UNFOLD.
MAYBE THEY'LL KILL PUNISHER FOR ME... Hmmmm I WONDER, DO I STILL GET THE MONEY IF THAT HAPPENS?
WELL, IF NOT, I STILL GOT THE GAS STATION! HA!
SKIDDD
:SIGH:
OKAY, MAYBE MOONDRAGON, BUT THAT'S IT.
YEAH, RIGHT.
ALL RIGHT, PUNISHER, WE GOT THE [redacted]IDGE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED. YOU GOT NOWHERE TO GO.
SO LET GO OF THOSE MOBSTERS, PUT THE GUN DOWN, AND WE CAN ALL GO HOME EARLY...


LONG STORY SHORT: THIS WAS THE ONLY PLACE TO GET THESE GUYS...TRUST ME.
COME ON, MAN! WE WANT THESE GUYS JUST AS BAD AS YOU DO...JUST GIVE IT UP...IT'S HOPELESS...
EXCUSE ME!

OUT OF MY WAY, NOW! RICHARD LEDER, FBI!
PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON THIS INSTANT AND I CAN GUARANTEE YOUR SAFETY.
LOOK AROUND. THERE IS NO WAY YOU'RE GETTING OFF THIS BRIDGE ALIVE OR ANY OTHER WAY. PUT THE GUN DOWN. NOW.


NO.

I GOT IT! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS BEFORE?

AT THIS ANGLE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OUT THE PUNISHER, COLLECT MY CASH AND STILL GET VANESSA TO SLIP INTO THAT LITTLE SCHOOLGIRL OUTFIT...
...ALL BEFORE FRIENDS COMES ON!
LEE HARVEY OSWALD WOULD BE PROUD.
YO, FREAK. THE SAM CLUBS ARE IN THE CITY.
GO AWAY.
WHAT'S! DID I HEAR YOU CORRECTLY?
LISTEN, KIDS, WHY DON'T YOU TURN AROUND AND GO ROB SOME FRUIT FROM A KOREAN DELI?
ARE YOU NUTS, MAN? GUESS YOU DON'T WATCH ENOUGH CLINT EASTWOOD MOVIES.
GIVE IT TO HIM, NELS...
THIS IS A .357 MAGNUM. THE MOST POWERFUL HANDGUN IN THE WORLD. IT CAN BLOW YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF...
...SO YOU GOTTA BE ASKING YOURSELF, DO YOU FEEL--?
YOU MESSED IT UP.
WHAT? NO, I DIDN'T. SEE, IT'S... Uh ... DID I?
WAIT... IT'S.. DO YOU FEEL LUCKY, PUNK? WELL, DO YA?
YES.
VERY.
BLAM
OH... MY... GOD...
MOMMY...
NOW RUN ALONG AND TELL YOUR BUDDIES HOW YOU KICKED MY BUTT AFTER I SHOT YOUR FRIEND... I REALLY DON'T CARE WHAT YOU MAKE UP. I GOT WORK TO DO.
BYE.

Hmm, HE KEEPS MOVING...GOT TO DO IT IN ONE SHOT.
PUNISHER, LISTEN! YOU JUST CAN'T KILL THESE MEN IN COLD BLOOD!
ONE OF THEM'S AN UNDERCOVER AGENT WE PLACED IN DIGGER'S FAMILY BACK IN '95!
THAT WOULD BE ME!!
CHA CHIK
BLAM
CHA CHIK
BLAM
I KNOW.

HE'S JUMPING!
SHOOT HIM!
SPKOW
PINGGGG
KWINGGG
SPKOW
PINGGGG
KWINGGG
HE JUMPED... HE REALLY JUMPED.
GOODBYE, THREE MILLION...
SPLOOSH

DAT GUY FROM SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER DIED THE SAME WAY!
THERE IS NO WAY HE COULDA SURVIVED THAT DROP...NO WAY!
EVEN IF HE DID THE UNDERTOW WILL KILL HIM!
EXCUSE ME.

WILL SOMEONE PLEASE UNTIE ME, FOR SHUCK'S SAKE!

WHAT A STUPID THING TO DO! HE'S GONNA GET WASHED RIGHT INTO THE ATLANTIC! IF HE'S STILL ALIVE AT ALL...
HEY, WAITAMINUTE.

WHAT IF... Hmm, PRETTY SNEAKY, SIS!

TAKING ALL MY STRENGTH TO FIGHT THE CURRENT. THANK GOD FOR FURY'S PORTABLE OXYGEN SUPPLY UNIT.
BEEP! BEEP!
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MINIATURE HOMING DEVICE, I'D NEVER FIND MY WAY THROUGH THIS MUCK.
AHH... THERE IT IS NOW.
MY RAFT...

...AND MY SALVATION?
SAY HELLO AND GOODBYE TO MY LITTLE FRIEND!
CONTINUED...